

Number 142

June/July 2023

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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Veg Plants

Tomato Plants

Perennials

Alpines

Pond Plants

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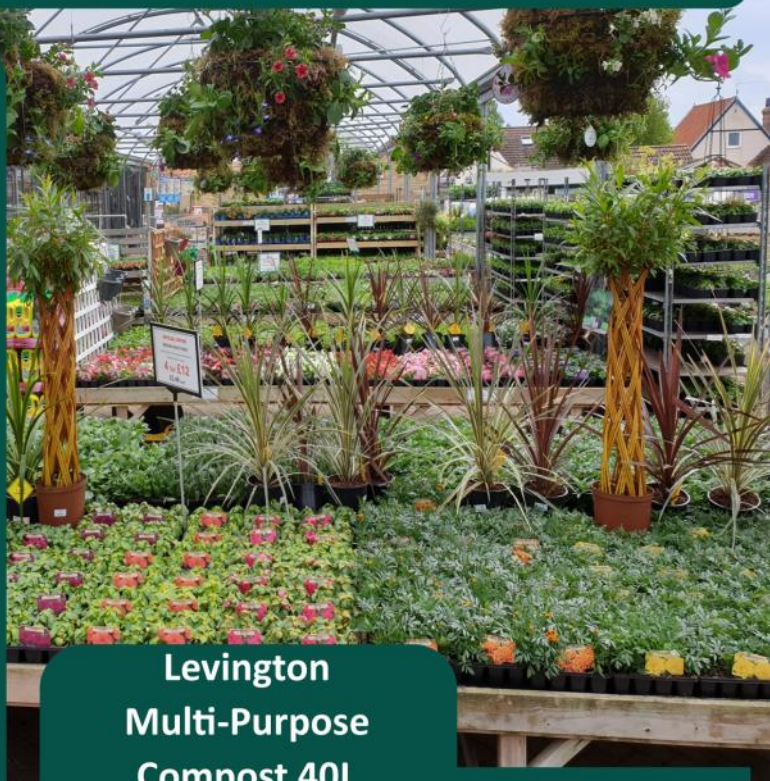
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Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



And so another historic weekend comes to an end. We delayed publication of *Village Voice* by a few days so that we could include coverage of the village's efforts to commemorate the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla. Whilst there was not a great deal of public celebration in the way of bunting or big street parties, there were a number of smaller gatherings and various village groups carried out their own events. However, the Village Centre hosted a very successful Dinner Dance on the Saturday; on the Sunday a Family Fun Day was held on the Sports Field, giving children the opportunity to try out football, tennis and cricket; on the Big Help Out Day on the Monday a small band of litter pickers cleaned up the village; and throughout the weekend I strained my brain trying to do the SeeKING quiz, fiendishly compiled by Graham Eley. The winner was Jenny Oliver. The answers can be found on the Parish Council website.

We welcome a number of new advertisers to the magazine, together with our faithful repeat supporters. If you use any of our advertisers, do let them know that you saw them in *Village Voice*. We want them to continue with us!!! And do encourage other businesses to contact us about future advertising.

Apart from our regular contributors, we have some interesting articles we hope you will enjoy: Ben Colson writes about the story behind Dr Beeching's railway cuts back in the 1960s; Elizabeth Fiddick wants to solve the mystery of what happened to a St Nicholas church clock; and Brian Anderson tells us the history of the women of the Air Transport Auxiliaries in WW2 and also shares with us some of his favourite poetry.

Have a good summer!! ☐

Kathryn Gigg

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Dear Village Voice



In edition No. 139 (December 2022/January 2023) Roger Jackson responded to Brian Anderson's article on local wartime pillboxes and asked various questions. Here is Brian's reply.

Wartime constructions

I owe Mr Jackson an apology for delay, which was, sadly, unavoidable. The pillbox on Broadlands Close has been examined by members of the Parish Council's Environment Committee. The trees (which were initially planted to deter vandalism) are now too large to be removed without risking the structural integrity of the building. They will be cut back to allow a professional survey of the pillbox to be carried out and then further measures considered.

Regarding the searchlight mystery at the other pillbox, I have information regarding decoy airfields (constructed to invite useless attacks by the Luftwaffe). The sites were equipped with landing lights, hangars and dummy aircraft. Some of them were equipped with remote searchlights as part of the deception. Our "local" dummy field was at Sedgford - it doesn't mention searchlights but the accounts (given in *Decoy Sites* by Huby Fairhead, 1996) are fragmentary, being based on memories of those present. □

Brian Anderson

Looking for helpful passer by near Wolferton

I am wondering if anyone can help us please.

At 6.55 pm on 29th March our little chocolate brown cocker spaniel Daisy escaped us, which was totally out of her character not to come back when called. However, she got a scent, got through a small hole under the fence alongside the road to Wolferton in between the first small car park and the larger one. Daisy was on the grass verge but must have had her little bottom in the road slightly. A car came past and hit her and killed her instantly. The car didn't stop or even slow down.

A man stopped when he saw me and my daughter cradling our beautiful little girl, crying and wailing, and asked if he could help. He was about late 30s or early 40s and had a gingery, short beard and hair and a colourful top on. We would like to contact him to thank him for stopping, if anyone could let me know who he is please.

Sally
07979281107

Thanks to the Coronation Dinner and Dance organisers

I would just like to extend thanks to all those who made the Coronation Dinner and Dance at the Village Centre such a success.

It was a great evening, with a lovely meal, and excellent music and singing. The hard work carried out by the organisers was much appreciated. Thanks again.

Joy Kelly

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



What a weekend we have just had to celebrate the Coronation of their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Like many others I was glued to the TV, as it was likely to be my one and only opportunity to see a Coronation. It did not disappoint but made me reflect on the momentous events of the last twelve months and the concept of service. Last June we had the celebrations for her Late Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, very sadly followed three months later by her death and the outpouring of national grief. The state funeral was sombre and fitting for such a well loved and respected monarch. Now we have celebrated a coronation for a monarch, who, I suspect, will become equally loved. As regards service, I was brought up with the importance of helping others and this was reinforced at school where it was expected that we would all have a worthwhile career and make a positive contribution to society.

The events held in the village over the coronation weekend were a great success and enjoyed by all. I would like to thank all of the groups who put on events, their hard work in making it such a special weekend is very much appreciated. Also, many thanks to everyone who attended the events and those who quietly helped out; without your support we would not be able to put them on and their success makes everyone's hard work worthwhile. Photos of the events are elsewhere in this edition, and I would like to thank our editor for taking the time to visit them and take the pictures.

The local elections have now taken place, with there now being no overall control of the Borough Council. This will make it difficult for them to make decisions, but we will watch that space.

As regards the Parish Council, May 4th saw the end of our four-year term and I am pleased to report that yet again our spending was within our budgets. Our new term of office officially starts at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 15th. We will then be looking forward to carrying out projects to further improve the village. We are here to serve the residents, so if you have ideas that we could consider, please think about coming to a Parish Council meeting to make suggestions to us. Our meetings are open to the public and are normally on the last Monday of the month at the Village Centre at 7.00pm. Please check our website for the exact dates. We currently have twelve elected Parish Councillors but do have six vacancies, so if anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact myself (my contact details are on the Parish Council website, www.dersingham.org.uk.) □

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News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

King Charles III Coronation

Oh, What a Night! – to steal the title of an old pop song.

We had a fabulous event to celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla. The Centre was bedecked with flags and bunting, and tables decorated with flowers and small flags. Our wonderful team of volunteers worked very hard in the week leading up to the event to

ensure the Centre looked its best, helped with shopping and cooking, served food and drinks at the event, and came back to help clear up the next day. I really can't thank them enough.

Children's Craft Sessions

A local teacher is proposing to run craft sessions for children during school holidays. The first will take place on Friday 2nd June.

Sunday Socials

These were intended to offer companionship over the winter months and are, therefore, taking a break until later in the year.

Coffee Shop

On Thursday and Friday mornings, we love catching up with our regular customers and extend a warm welcome to visitors, who can enjoy very reasonably priced home-cooked quiche, cake, and hot and cold drinks. Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the work carried out at the Hospice.

Friendship Lunches

On the first Tuesday each month we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for £7.00. Booking is required, so please call 01485 540644 by noon on the Friday beforehand and also advise us of any dietary needs.

Village Cinema

Our May 30th film is *Mrs Harris goes to Paris*; June's showing on June 27th will be *A Man called Otto*; the July 25th film is *What's Love Got to do with it?*

Annual General Meeting

All Association members are welcome to attend. Please refer to the notice on this page.

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website -

www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for the regular newsletters. We have a Facebook Page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. If you have any questions about the Centre, its activities, or bookings, call our landline 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use, so please leave a message with contact details and someone will get back to you.□



DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 13th June 2023
7pm

The Meeting is open to all – members of the DVCA
& all residents of the surrounding villages are
welcome to attend.

Copies of the Agenda and associated paperwork can be
collected from the Centre throughout June or requested by
an email to contact@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

VILLAGE CINEMA

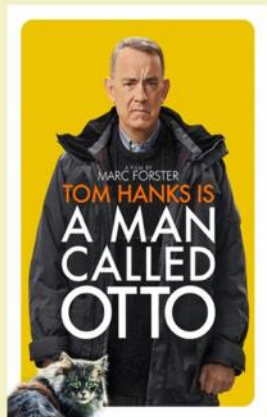
at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on
Tuesday June 27th at 7:30pm

A MAN CALLED OTTO (PG-13)

Otto is a grump who has given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all.

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Coronation Dinner Dance at Dersingham Village Centre

The DVCA team continued their rich tradition of putting on a splendid evening's entertainment to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla.

After a delicious meal, the band 2+One burst into life with some golden oldies and soon the floor was filled with gyrating couples. Half way through the evening there was a toast to the royal couple, accompanied by festive little cakes adorned with Union Jacks.

Wendy Snell, who created a superb collage of Her Majesty the Late Queen for her Platinum Jubilee, has now produced a similar one reflecting the life of Charles. It is on display in the Centre's Hub.



The volunteers who made it all happen

Family Fun Day

Coronation celebrations continued on the Sunday with a day of sports for anyone to try out. The event was organised in association with Dersingham Junior and Adult football, and the Cricket and Tennis Clubs. It was great to see the participation of very junior members of the community. The BBQ did a roaring trade with burgers and hot dogs.



Village Litter Pick

On the Monday of the Coronation weekend, the national Big Help Out day was created to continue the theme of serving communities and those around us.

A determined band of Dersingham litter pickers cleared around the open spaces and main roads in the village, and as you can see came up with several bags of rubbish. □



Dersingham Task Force

Dennis Weatherill

Although by now we should be well into summer, at the time of writing it's still an unseasonably cold spring. Despite that, we in the Task Force have been busy since March tidying the two gardens (on Post Office Road and in the Recreation Ground) to bring them back into condition after the weeds had free rein over winter. The display of tulips and daffodils has been exceptional this year. Other flowers will follow on in due course, notably the roses at the end of Post Office Road. The pictures will also show the results of our bulb planting with which we've been involved, both on the roadside verges on the southern approach to the village and by the Village Centre.

As always, if you wish to join our team please contact me, Dennis Weatherill, on 07482 913399 or denzilweatherill@gmail.com You will be made most welcome. □



Hedgehog Report

LM Williams

At time of writing, it's Coronation Weekend and there have already been some sightings of hedgehogs in a neighbour's garden at dusk. This is very good news. In the calendar of hedgehog activities, May and June are busy months for foraging food, fattening up and mating, followed by the building of summer nests by the mother hedgehogs for the birth and care of their hoglets. A litter usually has four or five hoglets. Mother hedgehogs are very protective of their young, but they may abandon the nest if they are disturbed by predators or by human activity, such as gardening, mowing, or working near a nest site. If you come across a nest, steer clear. If you can leave some areas of your summer garden untouched, this too will help these ancient animals to thrive. □

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From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



Well, what an amazing few days this last week has been. Firstly, we would like to thank all those who turned out to vote for us. We are delighted to be returned as your Councillors and will continue to work hard as we have always done for the best interests of Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Anmer, Shernborne and Wolferton.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the other candidates who, whilst not elected, did get a good number of votes. The turnout was nearly 35% of the vote which compared favourably with some other wards. Those candidates who delivered leaflets will have worked hard and gone through a lot of shoe leather and their/our efforts should be acknowledged.

What did become apparent whilst going round was the number of properties that bore no number. This is now a legal requirement, mainly for the emergency services to find you.

The Coronation was an uplifting event at a time when we do need a morale boost. The service itself and the party at Windsor were both in their way amazing, and a testament to what Britain does best: pageantry, respect for our heritage and a warm regard for our monarchy.

The new administrative year will begin - certainly a challenge to form and promote an administration. As we write, this has not been decided. Hopefully, we will all find a way to work together like grown ups to deliver for our Borough. It should be an interesting four years!

During those four years we should see the regenerative projects delivered, funding for which was bid for and secured in the last term. Amongst these will be a new Multi User Hub, (super library to you and me!) a revamped Guildhall, and a smartened riverside and King's Lynn town generally.

We will all work towards a borough which offers the best place in which to live with the resources available to us. Projects to deliver more affordable housing must be front and centre of our endeavours.

On that note, it remains only for us to wish you all a great summer and thank you once again for your support. □



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Dersingham Guides and Scouts celebrate the Coronation Lynne Wheeler

Over 100 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and their leaders started the Coronation celebrations on Friday evening with a joyful party. Everyone designed their own commemorative plate to keep as a souvenir and decorated bunting to fill the HQ windows over the weekend. There were also silly "crown themed" team games, a picnic, a celebration cake and campfire singing (indoors) before closing the event with a renewal of our promises. Everyone who attended was given a Coronation necker to wear. □





Monument of Prayer

Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
and leader of 'The Well', Ingoldisthorpe.

Made of one
million bricks
and at 51.5

metres or 169 feet high, the
arch of Eternal Wall of
answered prayer will be
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away. This new monument
will provide a visible sign -
each of the one million
bricks in Eternal Wall
represents when someone
has prayed to Jesus and he
has answered. Answered
prayers from Christians



around the world have been sent to be part of this national monument. Perhaps you
have an answered prayer with which you could form part of this
lasting sign of hope. For more information visit www.eternalwall.org.uk.

The striking new monument will be built in Warwickshire
between the M6 and M42 and will be viewed by over 500,00 people passing by each
week. The monument will be over twice
the size of the Angel of the North and
provide a striking reminder of God at work
in the power of prayer.

The Well

The Well in Ingoldisthorpe has itself been
an answer to prayer. The café at The Well
continues to be a valued place to meet
people and enjoy barista beverages. The
café is open on the mornings of Mondays,
Wednesdays and Fridays: 9am-12:30pm.
If you haven't been yet, why not pop along
- 36 Hills Road, Ingoldisthorpe. The coffee
is great!

Please do check the website for all the
services across the churches and the
events coming up.

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YouTube Channel: 'Dersingham Online

Worship' □

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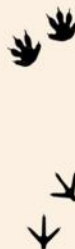
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Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The three monthly Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was held on 10th May, followed by the Annual General Meeting. Both meetings were held just after the deadline for submitting copy to the Editor of Village Voice, and the last meeting was fully reported in the last issue, so what is reported below is based on the Agendas for both meetings. The date of the next Ordinary Meeting is Wednesday

9th August.

Remember, the Annual General Meeting is important as it is the opportunity for residents of the Parish to meet their Councillors and give their opinions on any matters concerning the villages covered. The difference to an Ordinary Meeting is that residents' input, whilst still possible, is more limited.

The agenda for the Ordinary Meeting

This meeting is being held in Wolferton Social Club, starting at 7pm and the Agenda includes a range of items, some ongoing from previous meetings, such as the refurbishment of Butlers Cross scheduled ancient monument, where the road from West Newton meets the main Lynn to Hunstanton road.

Two interesting new items concern the design for a memorial bench to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the King's Lynn to Walsingham Pilgrimage Project.

There are two important items on possible funding for projects within the parish. The first of these, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) really does involve everybody in the parish: a separate letter is included with this magazine, (for those parishioners who live in Wolferton and West Newton) and we do really urge you to think about it and respond.

The second is a new fund which the government has provided to the Borough Council for projects which will bring area-wide benefits. They could, for example, be to do with the arts, or to encourage walking and cycling rather than relying on cars. These will both be discussed by your Councillors and are important opportunities for the future of the parish.

Also on the Agenda is the number of vacancies for Parish Councillors. This is an important position in the community, serving the best interests of the community, and is open for anybody who lives or works in the parish, which covers the villages of West Newton and Wolferton and the hamlets of Babingley and Sandringham. You need to be of voting age, so do make contact with the Chairman of the Parish Council for an initial chat to establish your possible interest.

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting

This meeting will follow the Ordinary Meeting, starting at 8pm. It is the meeting where formal business is conducted and generally lasts less time than the Ordinary Meeting. Formal business includes Councillors voting in their Chairman for the year.

Above all, we urge you to support your Parish Council during the year ahead – attend meetings, contribute and make your voice heard. □

We will meet at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm on Monday 19th June to hear about the work of the Dogs Trust and some Doggy Stories from Page Pope.

**Hunstanton
u3a**

We will meet again on Monday 17th July to hear of the experiences of a visit to Saida Children's home in Kenya from Hilary Farrell, a member of the u3a group that visited recently.

You will be most welcome to join us. For further information please see our website hunstantonu3a.org or telephone 07443 763679.

Please note we do not have a meeting in August.□



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Dersingham Day Club

Joy Kelly and Carol Edwards

The Day Club continues to enjoy the weekly meetings at The Village Centre on Wednesdays.

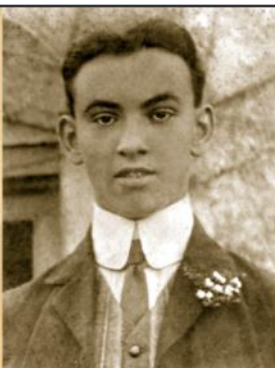
Since our last report we have had the pleasure of an afternoon's entertainment by Merv on his guitar, with great music and singing. We also had a return visit from The Banjo Man, and again this was enjoyed by everyone.

For our Easter celebration we went to the United Services Club at Hunstanton for a carvery lunch (see photos below.) Two of our members even wore Easter bonnets, and everyone went home with an Easter egg.



We are now looking forward to the Coronation of King Charles, more on this in the next issue.

In the meantime, we continue with our usual activities, and if anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Maggie Langridge on 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby on 01485 544975.□



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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

We were blessed with good weather for our Green Opening Day on April 15th, when our President, Keith Richardson, opened the green by bowling the first woods of the season. He also presented a cheque for £250 to two representatives from N.A.R.S., the charity we supported last season. This was followed by a Roll-up in which thirty-six members took part. It was great to re-connect with our bowling friends after the winter break.



There was a good turnout for our Open Day on Sunday April 24th, when people could try bowls for themselves. Hopefully some of those who tried will feel inspired to join our coaching sessions on Thursday mornings from 10am till noon. All equipment is provided.

The Albert Victor League is already under way, with the first match of the season being a Knockout Cup game at home against Marham A. We unfortunately lost this only after extra ends had to be played to separate the teams. This was followed by a draw away to Marham B. in the League. We lost our opening game in the Countryside League away to Searles but look forward to a home game against Ingoldisthorpe this week. We have lots to look forward to apart from league games, the first being a friendly game against Cliff Parade on Sunday May 14th, then The Centenary Cup will be played for on Bank Holiday Monday, May 29th.

The 'Birds' League teams have been drawn, and the first game will be on Wednesday, May 17th. This is a popular and closely fought internal league, made all the more enjoyable as we are playing with our fellow members. June 24th sees the first round of this season's Ladies v Men Challenge, another very popular event, usually accompanied by light-hearted banter from both camps.

So, lots to look forward to internally and in the Leagues. Let's hope the weather is kind, and we all stay fighting fit.□

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The Mystery of the Church Clock

Elizabeth Fiddick

In the last edition of *Village Voice* I wrote how the villagers had raised the funds to install the clock in the church tower to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. However, there is a great mystery connected to a clock in St. Nicholas Church.

First, we must travel back some 286 years to 1737 when a certain John Chamberlain sat down and wrote out his last will and testament. John was a very respected member of our village, for it is to him we owe the detailed account of the great flood of 1671 when all the general marshes and the common marsh were flooded as the sea banks were breached in a violent storm during the night of September 12th. John and others spent two terrible days rescuing drowning cattle and trying to stem the flood. Fortunately there was no loss of human life but the experience of that night and the following days stayed with the villagers for a long time. True, there had been storms and floods before, but this one appears to have been particularly severe. It was John who requested that the events of that dreadful night should be remembered every September in the church with a service of thanksgiving and the singing of the 29th Psalm - a tradition we still follow today.

So, in 1737, now an old man, John set about putting his affairs in order and amongst his many bequests he bequeathed to the Minister of the time, Samuel Kerrich, and the Churchwardens £10 to be used by them for the *“putting in order and repairing the clock belonging to the Parish Church”* and from thence to keep it in good repair. But where was this clock? There is no evidence to suggest there has been a clock in the tower before the present one.

In 1910 the Reverend Lewis was equally puzzled and spoke to the oldest inhabitant of the village at that time, a Mr. Batterbee. He was ninety-three years old and had always lived here but he could not remember a clock in the church before the present one. But the church of his young days was quite different to the present one. He remembered there used to be a gallery at the west end in which the singers sat with no instrument at all to help them lead the singing. But he could not recall any clock being there. There was a “three decker” combination of clerk’s desk, reading desk and pulpit standing against the first pillar from the chancel on the south side. John Pell’s wonderful tomb also stood here on the south side before being moved to its present position by the altar in about 1915. There were square pews for the “quality” and benches at the west end for the poor.

Mr. Batterbee had seen the church re-roofed twice, and when he was a boy the lead was stripped off the nave and chancel and replaced with slates. His father had acquired a slate from the workmen and Mr. Batterbee used it to practise his writing skills. There was substantial renovation and restoration carried out between 1877 and 1879 at a cost of £6000. The



cost of the nave, £4000, was paid by the patron of the church, Dr. Bellamy of Ingoldisthorpe Manor. Open benches were provided to seat 600 people. The vicarage was built on the rising land near the church, and the village school, now a sad sight indeed, was erected at the bottom of Dodds Hill. In 1884 a new organ was located in the north aisle for £221.15s. Four handsome brass coronas were hung above the aisles to light the church at a cost of £90. One of the coronas now lights the hub of our Village Centre. But photos of the church taken some time after 1915 seem to suggest it was still a rather cold, bare interior nevertheless.

So, great changes were made to the church and at some time the gallery was removed. But what happened to John Chamberlain's clock? Was it repaired as he wanted? Did Rev. Kerrich keep it in good order? When was it taken down and what happened to it? I have certainly not found any mention of it in any document I have read so far. The mystery remains. Unless someone out there knows better.□



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Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

I decided to experiment by asking the AI chat app on my phone to write this month's text. With a few minor adjustments (eg the robot referred to a croquet 'court', so I changed it to 'lawn'). This is what it produced! I think I shall be made redundant!

Croquet is a delightful outdoor game that has been enjoyed by people of all ages for centuries. It is not only a game of strategy and precision, but also a great way to spend some quality time with friends and family.

One of the joys of playing croquet is the physical activity it offers. The game requires players to move around the lawn, setting up their shots and striking the ball through the hoops. This can be a great way to get some exercise and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings.

Another joy of croquet is the social time it provides. Players can engage in friendly competition, while also chatting and laughing with their companions.

The game is not overly competitive, which allows for a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Croquet also challenges players to think logically and strategically. It is not just about hitting the ball through the hoops, but also about positioning the balls in a way that will make it difficult for opponents to score. This requires careful planning and execution, which can be satisfying and fun.

Finally, croquet is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and embrace nature. The game is usually played on a grass lawn, providing a soothing and peaceful ambiance. Whether you are playing in a park, backyard or



country club, the fresh air and sunshine make for a refreshing and invigorating experience.

In conclusion, playing croquet is a wonderful activity that offers numerous joys. It provides physical activity, social interaction, mental stimulation, and an opportunity to appreciate the natural world. So, grab your mallet and let the croquet balls fly – you're in for a treat!

The photographs are of some of our super U3A students (Mary, Linda, Jean, Rachel and Sue) who completed their Introduction to Golf Croquet course, and of Ian Lines being presented with the Lord Fermoy Cup by Janet Kendal at the Robert Prichard tournament.□



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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Easter has been and gone and the term is marching forward, so the children are throwing themselves into the summer term with gusto!



World Book Day was another huge success, with children and staff dressing up as an assortment of their favourite characters. With the school's focus on reading and the new forty-five minute a day reading scheme firmly in place, the children appreciate the value of books for knowledge and pleasure.



March saw the school taking part in Young Carers Awareness Day, where staff and children participated in assemblies and learnt how to support young people caring for family members.

Down's Syndrome was highlighted during another Odd Sock Day. The children learnt that chromosomes are shaped like socks and people with Down's Syndrome have an extra chromosome.

Red Nose Day raised money and laughter when the children dressed in red, or as superheroes, baked cakes, told jokes in assembly and the Student Council organised a book bring and buy sale. The Eco-Council decided to focus on keeping healthy last half term and devised a campaign to improve lunchboxes and encourage children to make healthy choices at break time and lunchtime. The children took part in PSHE (Personal, Health, Social and Wellbeing Education) lessons as part of the school's Jigsaw scheme of work. There was a prize draw at the end of the campaign, with prizes to encourage children to get outside and be more active or take part in mindful activities to improve mental health and wellbeing.



Sporting events are beginning to ramp up as summer approaches. The dance club took part in a wonderful carnival themed event at The Corn Exchange, where parents enjoyed a colourful performance. Year 4 participated in a Bee Netball Festival, where their camaraderie shone through. A second Croydon Cup football tournament saw Dersingham winning the Premiership and battling hard in the Champions league. Tri-Golf for Year 3 and Year 2 was a huge success at Heacham Junior School, with children winning medals for superb sportsmanship and improving their skills as the festival progressed.



The Easter service rounded off last half term at St Nicholas' Church, with Year 5 leading the service brilliantly and entertaining everyone with their chocolate theme! An Easter Egg hunt organised by the PTA was enjoyed by all. They also organised a sponsored bounce-athon to launch the new term, and the children enjoyed challenging themselves on the bouncy castle.

The Nursery children have been learning about lighthouses this half term. They experimented with materials to see if they floated or sank, and made connections to the boats being warned by the lighthouse of the perilous rocks. The children enjoyed exploring repeating patterns to create their very own lighthouse designs.



In Reception, this half term the topic is called 'Once Upon a Time.....' which was launched by going outside in the Reception garden to discover some coins, a golden egg, a tall beanstalk, giant footsteps and a harp was heard playing. The children became detectives, helped by a letter from the giant looking for a boy who had stolen some items from him. The children created 'wanted posters' to help the giant locate the culprit and his precious belongings.



The mayor of King's Lynn, Lesley Bambridge, came to open the new Reception outside area and spoke to the children about her role as mayor and showed her official robes before cutting the ribbon to the new garden. The celebrations continued with squash and biscuits!

Year 1 are studying flora and fauna this half term, discovering how plants grow. They will follow each month of the year through their class text, *A Rabbit Problem*, and help two little rabbits, Lonely and Chalk, unravel the mysteries of the Fibonacci sequence! They will become historians as they study Beatrix Potter and enjoy the escapades of Peter Rabbit and his friends.

Year 2 enjoyed a scientific topic last term, learning about lots of ways to keep healthy, and even tasted food combinations before designing and making healthy wraps. The children found out how animal food chains work and tried 'Pop Art' using food images! Moving into the summer term, the children are finding out how plants grow, and also using their geography and history skills to learn about villages, towns and cities, and how early aeroplanes were developed. The children are also very excited to be returning to Forest School this half term.



Year 3 have started their new topic 'Green Planet'. The children are learning about the temperate forest biome, where they can be found and the creatures within them. They will be exploring the local woods at Sandringham as part of their learning.

This half-term, Year 4 have been learning all about Egyptians. The children became Egyptologists and explored the tomb of Tutankhamun and all the wonderful treasures from his inner chamber. They wrote instructions on how to mummify a body and looked at what Egyptologists found beneath the wrappings of famous mummies. They have written in hieroglyphics and sent letters to characters from the class book. Forest School has been brilliant fun, making fires, toasting marshmallows and playing lots of games in the mud.

Year 5 have started a new topic, during which they will be learning about the Viking occupation of Britain, which began with the invasion of Lindisfarne in AD793.

Year 6 have spent the last half term studying a children's horror story called *Clockwork*. In this book the evil Dr Kalmenius spends his time creating all kinds of macabre and sinister machines. This served as a stimulus for writing, including horror story setting! Given Dr Kalmenius' proclivity towards the human heart, the children spent time studying the circulatory system. This culminated in the children dissecting a pig heart. Finally, given SATs are on the horizon, a lot of time has been spent revising and recapping on previous learning. Please do join me in wishing them luck for their upcoming exam week.

As summer approaches, there are a host of sporting events to look forward to, including the school's own sports day festival! Find out how the children get on in the next Village Voice edition!□

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Keith Starks (10th November 1933 – 11th March 2023)

On Friday 31st March at Mintlyn Crematorium we bade farewell to our dear friend and neighbour Keith Starks. As a keen outdoor person, since his retirement here in 1998, Keith became a stalwart member of the Dersingham Task Force, digging, clearing, planting, pruning and maintaining paths, verges and open spaces. Already a member of the King's Lynn Ramblers, he became a co-founder of and leader within the Dersingham Walking Group. When my wife and I moved in next door a few years later, he soon had us not only joining the Dersingham walks but involved with the leadership too. I in turn enlisted him as a regular distributor for our Village Voice magazine. Throughout his public service working life and into his retirement, Keith was a



meticulous administrator, rising to senior levels, so it was a privilege for me (with my computing but non-admin skills) to help him get to grips with selecting and making use of a laptop and later setting up his iPad. At Keith's funeral, the celebrant paid tribute to a life well lived, a sentiment with which I am sure all those of us who knew him would wholeheartedly agree.

Steve Davis



Dersingham Choir Summer Concert



We are very excited to announce our second concert on Saturday 15 July 2023 at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham PE31 6YE from 3.00pm. Light refreshments will be available. An opportunity to hear our music, which is an eclectic mix of traditional choral works, tapping toes with Irving Berlin, reminiscing with Freddie Mercury and more. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you all. Doors open at 2.30pm.

More information is available on our choir website. (Use QR code below)



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All change please! We're closing your railways

Ben Colson

Sixty years ago – on 27th March 1963 to be precise – a much anticipated report was published. It was *The Reshaping of British Railways*. Today we know it as the much-derided Beeching Report, as its content didn't chime with the kernel of a feeling then emerging that putting ever more cars on the road was not the best way forward for the nation's transport system, economy or environment. We tend to overlook the fact, though, that Dr Beeching was commissioned by the government in 1961 specifically to review the railway network to make it financially viable.

We need to understand the context: the first section of motorway in the country had been opened in 1959, the same year as the longest single railway line in the country closed. Government saw future transport investment being in road building, and it may or may not be significant that Ernest Marples, the Transport Minister (today the Secretary of State) part-owned a road-building company. The Ministerial Code was not as tight then as today and he complied with it by selling his shares to his wife, which was then entirely permissible, if not now. Marples has aptly been described as “the shadow behind Beeching.”

That longest line to close in 1959 was the Midland and Great Northern, which ran from Peterborough and near Melton Mowbray in the west, through South Lynn, Fakenham and Melton Constable and on to Yarmouth. One reason for the closure was the need for costly repairs to the swing bridge at Sutton Bridge, but it was conjectured that it was also to send a signal to the railway industry that there wasn't a bottomless pit of money to keep the system going.

Today we like to blame Dr Beeching for everything that's wrong with our transport system. Actually, his research and analysis were first class, even if we didn't then, and still don't, like the outcome. The report includes figures for the branch line from Swaffham through Watton to Thetford – only one of a small number detailed in the report because railway finances were then regarded as off limits for scrutiny. It made a loss on the cost of operating the trains of over a third of a million pounds in today's money and carried on average just nine people per journey. Of course, the key missing point is how much those nine passengers then spent on other railway lines they connected into.

Beeching recommended that the lines out of Lynn to Hunstanton, Dereham (for Norwich) and March (for Peterborough) should remain open, although with some of the smaller village stations closed. On the Hunstanton line that may well have then included North Wootton and Wolferton. In the case of the lines going east and west from Lynn he recommended that through “inter-regional” services be run between Norwich and Peterborough via Lynn, an outcome we could all heartily support today. Instead, all three lines were closed within a few years.

Why, then, was Dr Beeching ignored? This is a peculiarly East of England thing. If you look to the South West, to Devon and Cornwall, you'll find all sorts of short branch lines still open today, linking the main line which acts like a trunk, to coastal communities, keeping them vibrant and lively in a way that those along the east coast – and not just in East Anglia – struggle to achieve. In one case, in Cornwall, a park and ride site has been built so that the seaside resort can be reached more easily by transferring to train for the last few miles. The sort of thing we can only dream about.

So, what went wrong? British Railways was divided into regional management teams

and the Eastern Region team was absolutely determined to close as many lines as it could and focus only on main line services. Remember, nobody had access to railway accounts, so when a closure order was made, not even the Inspector appointed by the government had access to the figures. All the Inspector was allowed to do was decide whether the closure would cause hardship to users and recommend (not demand) such hardship be taken into account.

Had the figures been published for scrutiny, the Hunstanton line would almost certainly not have closed. Researchers since have found that some 42,000 trips a year were claimed to have been made to and from Hunstanton, but that was just tickets bought on the line itself. At Hunstanton alone, another 170,000 or so tickets were recorded at the platform barrier, having been bought elsewhere around the country. They were ignored, banished from the account.

That lack of transparency wouldn't be allowed today but it gave Eastern Region's managers a convenient cloak behind which to hide. It was a guaranteed win for them, and a guaranteed loss for everybody else. In many parts of the country the disused tracks were 'reserved' so they could be turned back into railway lines again, but our Council decided instead to build over them, almost as if to secure the car as the only means of transport for the future.□

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***Phobbies is a club for people both with and without disabilities.
We meet every Thursday between 10am and 2pm and
enjoy painting, knitting, crocheting, making rugs and trying our
hand at other crafts and hobbies.***

New members are welcome as well as anyone who would like to help run the club.

Any enquiries:
Contact Maggie: 01485 544865 or 07967799816



Dersingham Brownies enjoy their annual pack holiday

Lynne Wheeler, Brownies Leader

At the beginning of the Easter holiday twenty-one Dersingham Brownies and their leaders headed off for their annual residential Pack Holiday. They were staying at the Stibington Centre near Peterborough - an activity centre run by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The theme for the event was "Peter Rabbit and friends" with the leaders named after the Peter Rabbit characters and the Brownie Sixes after animals - Ducks, Foxes, Hedgehogs, Rabbits and Squirrels. During the three-day stay the Brownies helped prepare food for their meals, laid the tables, washed up, kept their Six bedroom tidy, enjoyed lots of Peter Rabbit themed crafts, played games inside and out and much, much more.



There was plenty of opportunity to gain points towards the Best Six prize and a chance to learn new skills, make friends and enjoy new experiences. On the first day they decorated bags to keep their crafts in, did painting, and played outside with the chance to climb trees. They enjoyed skipping and other games, had a pyjama parade before bed with prizes for the nicest nightwear, cuddliest toy, snuggliest slippers and dressing gown. They also sewed badges onto their

badge blankets and had a bedtime story before settling down to sleep. (Although on this first night sleep did not come immediately!!)

On the second day they had a short "Brownies' Own" Service where they heard the Palm Sunday story, received a palm cross each, sang some songs and heard prayers read by the oldest Brownies. In the afternoon the highlight of the stay was a visit from Animal Experience. They had the chance to hold and stroke a variety of animals including a tortoise, snake, barn owl, lizard and chinchilla.

On the second evening they toasted marshmallows and had an outdoor campfire songsong around a real fire.

The final day saw them icing Easter biscuits and enjoying an Easter Egg Treasure Hunt. Once all the points were added up, The Fox Six won the Best Six prize and the three oldest Brownies "Jumped over the Toadstool" to Guides.



Everyone had had a wonderful time and returned home full of their adventures and achievements. The leaders are already planning next year's event.

Double success

Two members of the Hall family were celebrating recently when Brownie Holly Hall and Rainbow Katie Hall both achieved their Gold Awards in their respective sections. Holly (aged 10yrs) and Katie (nearly 7yrs) both gained the top award in their sections after a lot of hard work. They had to gain six theme awards, each needing an Interest Badge, a number of Skills Builder activities and a variety of challenges and activities gained during Unit meetings. Holly has now moved onto Guides and Katie will shortly be moving onto Brownies.□



Dropping off papers at Scout & Guide HQ Lynne Wheeler

The Feathers has recently introduced car parking charges. However, we would like to reassure people that newspapers, magazines, etc. can still be dropped off at the Scout & Guide HQ porch in Manor Road. There is a window of twenty minutes before car parking charges apply.

We value the support of the public - not only does the money raised assist in the maintenance of our HQ but we are also supporting the environment.□

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The Bridge for Heroes – A local Charity with a National Reach

"My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:12-13.

The Bridge for Heroes is a registered charity that provides mental health and wellbeing support for the HM Armed Forces community, which includes serving members, veterans and their families. By providing an initial point of contact at the charity's Bridge Centre located in South Clough Lane in King's Lynn, we are able to offer holistic support to all who seek help, working closely with beneficiaries to resolve their issues and, where necessary, signposting them to other services.

Additionally, the charity has a second facility, located at Nelson House on the North Lynn Industrial Estate, which offers a variety of activities including Arts and Crafts, Photography, Woodwork, Crochet and Knitting, Cycling and Bicycle Maintenance, to name but a few. Both facilities offer free hot beverages, biscuits and cakes, and the Bridge Centre also offers hot food daily, together with a Sunday Roast (to those on their own, isolated or lonely) and a Veterans' Breakfast on a monthly basis. All of our services, beverages and food are offered free of charge and there is even free parking at Nelson House.

The charity does not receive any statutory funding. We are funded by grants that we have to apply for from organisations such as the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, The Army Benevolent Fund ('The Soldiers' Charity'), the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and the Norfolk Community Foundation, to name but a few; and we also rely on the generosity of the public. Obtaining adequate funding is always a constant struggle, but it is something that has to be achieved in order to continue delivering our front line services.

The charity was awarded 'The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service' in 2020, which is a cited award with an MBE status for our important work in support of our community, which is an indication of the quality of our work, together with the strict governance and framework in which we operate.

Our continual challenge, and one where we ask for your help, is communicating our presence to those who are entitled to our support and, for many varied reasons, cannot or will not seek it. Many of us know a veteran or close family member, either within our own household or local community, and we urge you to let them know of our existence, together with the activities and support that we offer. Isolation, loneliness and a feeling of worthlessness have serious social and personal implications to those affected and The Bridge for Heroes offers tailored solutions to deliver comradeship, new skills or interests and a feeling of value and accomplishment that we all strive for.

Further information about The Bridge for Heroes can be found on www.thebridgeforheroes.org or by searching for The Bridge for Heroes on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. □



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Norfolk Hospice Tapping House at Sandringham in Bloom

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House, is thrilled to be one of three local charities that will showcase a show garden at this year's prestigious Sandringham in Bloom. With the help of Dean Price Horticulture, they plan to create an emotive concept design that represents the support offered to people with terminal illnesses.

To maximise the impact of their garden, The Norfolk Hospice has been seeking sponsorship from local businesses to purchase water features, oak pergolas, and ornamental screening. The show garden and sponsor plaques will be transported to The Norfolk Hospice in Hillington after the event, where they will become a permanent feature in their gardens.



Courtyard at Tapping House

From June 3rd to June 11th, Sandringham in Bloom will celebrate the beauty of the Royal Estate's flora and fauna with its vibrant displays of flowers and foliage. Visitors can expect to receive expert advice, enjoy live music on weekends, and relax with a drink at the gin bar in the gardens.

This year, the event will be even more special as Queen Elizabeth II's Floral Coronation Robe from Salisbury Cathedral will be part of the displays inside Sandringham House. □



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Dersingham Library and the Summer Reading Challenge

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national programme promoted by the Reading Agency and delivered by library services. Children are challenged to read up to six books over the summer holidays. Participants collect stickers and other rewards as they progress through the challenge.

Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays if they do not have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure and this can be a problem for schools to put right in the new term. The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge really helps by getting over 700,000 children regularly into libraries over the summer, with thousands more taking part online.

This year's challenge, Ready, Steady, Read! is all about games and sports. Children will join a fictional team (and their animal mascots!) as they use their skills to weave their way through a summer obstacle course. Developed in collaboration with the Youth Sport Trust, the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge will celebrate play and participation, encouraging children to engage in games and sports in any way that best suits them.

Why volunteer?

Young volunteers are vital to supporting the Summer Reading Challenge within libraries. In Norfolk libraries we work with young volunteers to ensure that children taking part are encouraged to keep their reading skills up during the holidays. We are offering the following to young volunteers who sign up to help us this summer:

- A chance to become part of the library team in order to gain valuable skills and work experience.
- An opportunity to meet new people and make a positive contribution in your local community.
- A clear induction session so you know what we are asking you to do.
- Workshops to assist in your learning.
- A certificate, awarded at the end of your volunteering placement.
- A written reference for education or work applications.
- A chance to use your volunteering to complete a FLOURISH Youth Award

What will be involved?

Volunteers work alongside library staff to support the Summer Reading Challenge. As part of this you will be asked to:

- Talk to young people about the challenge and how to take part
- Help them to select books by sharing reading recommendations
- Work with staff to prepare activities
- Use creative skills to assist with craft activities and preparing displays

How can I get involved?

We ask all our volunteers to complete an application pack. In order to give us time to process your application ahead of the start of the summer holidays, please submit applications by **Friday 30th June 2023**. We begin recruiting volunteers well before the summer holidays to ensure that we have enough volunteers to help us during the summer.

The Summer Reading Challenge runs for the period of the school summer holidays. Our busiest day is usually launch day, which will be Saturday 8th July. You are free to set the days you volunteer. We ask that you let the library manager know when you are attending so we know when to expect you. You will be provided with training and support from our library staff and will have a member of staff as a designated point of contact.

This role is aimed at young people aged between 13-25. If you are interested in taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge as a volunteer, and would like further information, then please email us at volunteercontact@norfolk.gov.uk or speak to a member of staff at Dersingham Library.□

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NAPIT



Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy, President

April is our Birthday meet and this year it was our 62nd. Heacham Songsters provided the entertainment,

and it was so lovely to be able to sing along to songs that we knew most of the words to. Food was provided by members of the committee and the ladies tucked into jacket potatoes with a choice of filling plus a glass of wine. After the singing it was time for cake and many thanks go to those committee members who made the delicious cakes and cooked the potatoes.



In April we also enjoyed a coffee morning at Pam Manship's house and thanks to Pam for opening her house up to us - a very pleasant way to spend an hour or so. April 26th saw fourteen of us enjoy another lunch at the Feathers; so handy to walk to and back from, especially if you have had a glass or two with lunch (not naming any names). On April 27th seven of our members did a



Women Walk the World walk starting from St Nicholas Church and proceeding up Shernborne Road, Admirals Drive and then down Dodds Hill, with Wendy giving us snippets of history along the way. The weather was kind and we thoroughly enjoyed the walk. Of course, we finished with a lovely cup of coffee and cake at the Village Centre. Many thanks to the ladies at the Centre who reserved us some tables and made us most welcome. The cakes were lovely. This was in aid of ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) International Network. This was originally set up in 1929 to bring together rural women and their organisations around the world. Its

membership now spans eighty-two countries and the key concept of any policies made is the empowerment of rural women in all of their diversity.

At the end of April, we entered a team in the Advisors Quiz Night held at Bawdeswell Village Hall. A good evening was had, and we did not disgrace ourselves, ending up with a very good score. Knowing when to play the joker card led to much discussion and in hindsight we played it not in the best category, but we will know better next time. We enjoyed a tasty ploughman's supper and lots of laughs.

And so to May and the celebrations for the King's and Queen's Coronation. Marguarite kindly made blue, white and red bunting that was placed on the seat down Station Road. (This was donated by the W.I. for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.)

Our May meeting was our Resolutions meet and this year we debated whether to support the Resolution "Clean Rivers for



People and Wildlife" a topic much in the news today. Below is a piece from our National Website. *"Water quality in our rivers is shameful. Legally, designated bathing waters must be regularly monitored for pollution. The NFWI urges its members, the wider public, local authorities and Government to make, support and promote applications for official designated bathing sites on appropriate stretches of rivers in their area. This will be as instrumental to the clean-up of rivers as it has been for water quality improvement at coastal beaches."*

We also had a talk from Nicholas Minshull from Co-op Legal Services on "Tax, Care and Toy Boys". This was about protecting your family's inheritance, power of attorney and inheritance tax, many issues that left a lot of our members thinking about.

On May 13th we had a tombola stall at the Fun Day on the Recreation ground for the coronation and in aid of NARS. We also took the opportunity to have a small display board explaining what we actually do as a group, just in case you all got the wrong impression from my accounts (we are not just out and about enjoying ourselves all the time.)

Our usual groups met, although because of all the Bank Holiday Mondays, Babs had to re-organise the craft group and thankfully fitted us all in on Tuesday 9th May; a big thank you to Babs.

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7.15pm and are open to all ladies. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village. If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485 542847. □

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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

Many thanks to everyone who supports our coffee mornings. The last one in March raised £349.16 which was divided equally between Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged.

We are busy preparing for our annual flower festival and 133rd church anniversary, and by the time you read this we will be putting up our feet after hopefully a busy few days.

From the money raised we are hoping to fund, via the organisation Toilet Twinning, two toilet blocks in a needy country. To find out more about the organisation go to toilettwinning.org.

Our next coffee morning is on Saturday 22nd July, 10.00 am - 11.30 am, with funds raised for Methodist Mission in Britain and World Mission.

Our usual activities continue with Sunday services at 10.30 am, bowls club weekly on Wednesdays at 2.00 pm, and jigsaw club at 9.30 am every third Thursday.

For further information contact stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com □

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Dodds Hill and other hamlets

Though I have not lived in Dersingham for over sixty years I still take a lot of interest in it and, as readers of the *Village Voice* know, I write rather a lot about it. I have in my possession a small book that was published a few years ago by the *Eastern Daily Press*. It is called *Where's That? How to find over 700 Norfolk Villages*. Of course, the village of Dersingham is mentioned; Dodds Hill is also included as a separate hamlet. When I went to the Top School, St George's, in the 1950s, there were about thirty houses up Dodds Hill, all built by Sandringham Estate for their workers. I am only guessing, but I reckon there are about sixty bungalows up Dodds Hill now. One of the first bungalows to be built on the grass meadow in the 1950s was lived in by the headmaster of the Top School. Later on, in the 1960s, some council houses were built further up Dodds Hill on the left and then some on the right, but that still left Dodds Hill listed as a hamlet.

I was asked if there are many hamlets in Norfolk. Well, the first ones I thought of were Choseley near Thornham, Appleton near West Newton, Harpley Dams close to Hillington and Houghton near Great Bircham. There must be many more. I have been told that a small village can only be called a hamlet if it has a church. Well, this must be wrong as Dodds Hill has no church of its own, nor do Choseley or Harpley Dams. I have now found there are about thirty-seven hamlets in Norfolk and, after researching with the aid of two powerful table lamp magnifying glasses, I have found the following: Bacton Green, Bengate, Blofield Heath, Carleton St Peter, Choseley, Highgate, Emneth Hungate, Frankfort, Frogshall, Glandford, Helhoughton, How Hill, Irmingland, Kirby Bedon, Little Hautbois, Ludham Bridge, Nethergate, North Barningham, Norton Corner, Oxborough Hythe, Oxwick, Pettywell, Quarles, Salters Lode, Southgate, Stanford, Three Holes, Tipps End, Toftrees, Tiyby, and Wickhampton.

I hope I have got this right. Some of these hamlets have churches but there are a lot that do not have them. Dodds Hill is down as a hamlet in one of my lists but not in another. Dodds Hill was named many years ago after a Mr Dodds who farmed up there.

My working life

There was a programme on Radio Norfolk about how many jobs people had during their working lives. When I was twelve I got a job as an errand boy for Parkers Stores down Manor Road. I stayed there about a year and then I went to help Ken Martins, who had a smallholding down The Drift. He kept hens and pigs and rented some land from the Sandringham Estate on which he grew sugar beet, tates and barley. I worked there in the evenings and on Saturdays. When I was fifteen I left school and got a job at Lamberts, the ironmongers, at Snettisham as a shop assistant. I would cycle there and back four times a day as I would come home for lunch and I did not stay there long. Then I went to work as a butcher's boy at Ken Milton's butcher's shop on the corner of Manor Road and Heath Road and stayed there until I was twenty, when I was called up for National Service.

After I had done my training at Rhyl, Bovington and Oswestry I was posted to Hohné Barracks in Germany, where I was in my Dad's old regiment in the Royal Artillery. I was demobbed on 10th March 1962 but I never went back to the butcher's. Instead, I went to work at the concrete works down Common Road, Snettisham, staying there till July when I got a job as a lorry driver for a feed and corn merchant at Heacham. I left there in November to go turkey plucking at Clenchwarton. After Christmas they kept me on. It was now 1963 and the worst winter we had since 1947. In 1947 we had a lot more snow but in 1963 ice was the worst problem. I went to work from Dersingham to Clenchwarton, twelve miles there and back, in a 350 Norton with a child/adult sidecar into which I put a

concrete block to keep the wheel down on the ice. Nearly all the work was piece work; when there was no piece I got no pay. It was a busy farm, growing sugar beet, wheat, barley, blackberries, tates and strawberries. There were also some greenhouses where a lot of tomatoes were grown. I stayed on this farm for two years, but I got fed up with the journey every day. So I went lorry driving for a potato merchant at Gayton but didn't stay there very long before joining a carrot pulling gang. I was then offered a job as foreman in a carrot topping factory at Snettisham and I stayed there all winter. For the summer season I went to the Kit Kat as barman and then returned to the carrot factory.

That winter I got married to Joy and we rented a cottage in Heacham. I still worked at the Kit Kat part time and one night the manager of the Kit Kat told me I could have a full-time job there from Whitsun. We managed to rent a flat in Hunstanton at 1 Seagate, in the same street as the Kit Kat. When I started full-time at the Kit Kat I also started bait digging on Heacham, Hunstanton and Old Town beaches. Also, I did a lot of cockling, giving cockles away to family and friends but never selling any. In 1986 the Kit Kat closed down, so I went to work at the Showboat, an amusement arcade on Le Strange Terrace, where I stayed until I was sixty-five in 2004. Of all the places that I worked in I think the Kit Kat and Showboat were the best as you got to know so many people and make lots of friends.

All together I had nearly twenty jobs and from the age of fifteen was never out of work. My father, Jim Melton, was a bit different to me. He had twenty-five years in the army serving with the Royal Artillery, spending five of those years in a prisoner of war camp in Poland. When he came home he spent another twenty-five years as a caretaker at Dersingham Secondary Modern School, St George's, at the top of Dodds Hill.

Well, that's your lot for now. Keep on a troshing and eat plenty of that good old samphire.□



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Wolferton Village News

Ben Colson



The Coronation of King Charles III

The Coronation was celebrated quietly in Wolferton. There was plenty of activity on the Sandringham Estate, including a Coronation Vigil in St Mary Magdalene Church on the Friday evening, a special Park Run on Saturday morning, with the Big Help Out being a call for extra volunteers to help with the Park Run. That was followed by the live screening of the Coronation service from London on a giant screen set up on The Vista. The following day, Sunday, the concert from Windsor was on the giant screen.

Wolferton Social Club

Looking forward, for bingo fans, the Social Club has:

Cash Bingo

Sunday 11th June: doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm

Sunday 2nd July: doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm

Prize bingo

Tuesday 20th June: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 8pm

Tuesday 18th July: doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 8pm

St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Thank you to Jacquie for organising, and all those who helped and supported the coffee morning held at Wolferton Social Club on 25th March. We enjoyed a very busy morning and raised over £1000, the monies being shared between Happy Memories Dementia Support Group and St Peter's Church.

St Peter's was a picture on Easter Sunday; many thanks to all who helped decorate with beautiful spring flowers. Moving forward, our morning services at Wolferton will now be held at 9.15am - slightly earlier than the previous 9.30am start. These are held on the second Sunday of the month. On the fourth Sunday of the month we will have an evensong, held at 4.00pm for the summer months. Dates for the two months of this edition of the magazine are:

Morning Services at 9.15am on Sundays 11th June and 9th July, followed by refreshments.

Holy Communion at 4.00pm on Sundays 28th May, 25th June and 23rd July.

All are very welcome!□

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The Women of the Air Transport Auxiliary

Brian Anderson

The Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) was little known until a few years ago, and the role of women even less so. The ATA was established in 1939 with the aim of moving personnel, medical supplies and mail. It was not long before it was realised that Britain could not afford to use combat-trained pilots to move aircraft around when there was a need to commit as many of them as possible to the battles ahead. It had a rather confused managerial beginning. It sprang from an idea of Gerard d'Erlagner, a director of British Airways Limited, who wrote to the Air Ministry in spring 1938. Initially, its finance and administration were managed by British Airways, but in October 1939 it was taken over by the Air Member for Supply and Administration. The first pilots were from the RAF Reserve Command but in late 1939 an entirely civilian ferry pool was set up. It was 1941 before the ATA was placed under the control of the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

The first tranche of pilots were all men considered unsuitable for combat duty. They soon named themselves "The Ancient Tattered Airmen". It was not long before women joined the ATA. All ferry pool pilots flew in unarmed aircraft and without radios.

It began with Pauline Mary de Peauly Gower Fahie. Pauline Gower was an experienced pilot who gained her licence in September 1930 at the age of twenty-one. She bought her own aircraft in 1931 (a De Havilland Gipsy Moth biplane) and in 1933 was offering joyride trips from a field near Hunstanton, followed shortly with an air taxi service from Hunstanton to Skegness (a bit of local relevance here and perhaps still the fastest journey for this route!) She later joined a touring air circus. In 1938 she was appointed as a council member for the Women's Engineering Society and in the same year became a civil defence commissioner in London with the Civil Air Guard.



In 1939 she approached d'Erlagner and proposed that women could assist in the aircraft ferrying task. A women's ferry pool was established in December 1939, consisting of eight experienced flyers. Gower was appointed as head of the women's section. It was her first success. She was a consummate politician, knowing when to push an idea and when to hold back for a more propitious opportunity. We shall meet Pauline Gower again later in this article. It was not long before the group was nicknamed "The Attagirls", a sobriquet that most of them disliked. Although the women's ferry pool was now established, the acceptance was rather grudging. The women were initially confined to flying Class 1 aircraft and further limited to the Tiger Moth biplane trainer. They were also told to wear skirts rather than trousers, an order that was soon rescinded when they pointed out that flying in an open cockpit plane at 100mph in winter was unnecessarily uncomfortable and slacks were soon permitted. They were paid only 80 per cent of the male pilots' wage. This misogyny was unsurprising for the period - and perhaps it was overshadowed by male incomprehension. There is a story from later in the war of a female pilot (Mary Ellis) walking away from the Wellington bomber that she had just flown and being chased by the ground crew asking, "where's the pilot?" and needing some convincing that it was her. All ATA pilots were expected to fly any aircraft allocated within their class qualification, using their pilot notes strapped to one knee and the operational specification of the aircraft on the other.

It was not long after the "first eight" were flying that others joined. One of these was Diana Barnato (later Walker). She began the war as a Red Cross nurse and drove ambulances in the London Blitz. She gained her pilot's licence at the age of twenty, making her first solo flight after only six hours of instruction. She joined the ferry pool in May 1942. By this time women pilots had moved on from the Tiger Moth and she eventually ferried Spitfires, Hurricanes and multi-engined aircraft. She nearly died on two occasions in 1945. In the first she was flying a Mitchell bomber when there was a loud bang and all the instruments apart from the compass went dead. She knew which way she was flying but not her altitude and speed. She just managed to land before the starboard engine blew up. Later she was flying a Typhoon ground-attack fighter when the air intake for the engine and then the cockpit floor peeled away - she could see the ground beneath her feet. She slowed the plane and found it stalled at 230mph. The Typhoon was not supposed to stall until the speed was 88mph. She approached the airfield at well over twice the defined landing speed and managed finally to land after a series of bounces and turns, then walked to dispersal to report a defective aircraft. There were twenty-six Typhoon crashes due to structural failure during the war. Twenty-five were fatal.



Diana Barnato continued flying after the war - in 1963 she flew an English Electric Lightning and was the first British woman to break the sound barrier.

Mary de Bunsen might have been considered an unlikely recruit for the ATA. She was left partly disabled by childhood polio, had a heart defect and poor eyesight. Indeed, she was rejected on her first application but was encouraged by Pauline Gower to try again and joined in August 1941. She was a very successful ferry pilot, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes, largely in Scotland.



The most well-known woman ferry pilot was Amy Johnson. She gained her reputation by a series of flying exploits all over the world (to the United States, Australia, South Africa, Russia and Japan). She joined the ATA in May 1940. Her career was tragically short. In January 1941 on a flight from Prestwick in Scotland to Oxford during very bad weather she got lost and ran out of fuel. She bailed out over the Thames Estuary. In spite of being seen by shipping, attempts to rescue her failed. Her body was never found. Lettice Curtis was another early entrant to the ATA. She was the first woman to fly a Lancaster bomber and over the course of the war

flew 331 other four-engined bombers. Over the course of the war she flew for sixty-two consecutive months, with two days off in every thirteen.

Fairly early on in the course of war, women from many countries came to Britain to join the ATA. Pilots arrived from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Ireland, Holland, New Zealand, Poland and the USA. The case of the US is rather special as it was centrally organised. Jacqueline Cochran was an experienced pilot who began organising "Wings for Britain" well before America joined the war. She was the first woman to fly a bomber across the Atlantic. After a number of iterations her organisation was made a formal part

of aircraft delivery to Britain with the title Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). The misogyny experienced by British women pilots was also evident in the US - but it was much worse. Aircraft windows were broken, sugar added to petrol tanks and there are reports of oxygen supplies and brakes being tampered with. But Cochran was a determined woman and the supply continued to have women pilots (25 in all). She came to Britain to integrate the American pilots into the ATA. It seems she did get on well with Pauline Gower - she was forceful where Gower was subtle.

In 1943, Gower decided it was time to deal with the issue of women pilots' pay. The women ran the same risks, flew the same aircraft and worked the same hours as the men. Gower had meetings with women MPs who lobbied the Government and on 18th May 1943 Stafford Cripps (then Minister for Aircraft Production) announced to the House that male and female pilots would be paid equally. It is a pity that the equal pay battle is still not fully won, eighty years later.

Despite their contribution to the war effort the members of the ATA (men and women) were unrecognised until a cross party submission to the Government lobbied for a commemorative badge to be designed and presented. The Air Transport Auxiliary Veterans Badges were presented to surviving members by Prime Minister Gordon Brown at a Downing Street reception in September 2008.

166 women served in the ATA, one eighth of the force. There is, at the time of writing, one surviving member - Nancy Jane Miller Livingston Stratford, an American aviator born in 1919.□



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Events in June and July

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FRIDAY 9th JUNE – FILM NIGHT – MATILDA: THE MUSICAL

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SATURDAY 24th JUNE – MID-SUMMER PARTY – 12.30 p.m. onwards. £5 per person to include B.B.Q. and musical entertainment with The Whickers Folk group.

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SATURDAY 15th JULY – CRAFT FAIR . 1.00 p.m. Stalls £5 per stall. Double Stall £10. Refreshments – Teas, coffees and cakes available. Club bar open from midday.

To book a stall please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 or email anmerchair44@gmail.com

SATURDAY 15th JULY – FUN DOG SHOW - Registration 1.00 p.m, Show judging to start 2.00 p.m. Entry will be £1 per dog per class (Cash Only) – Please visit website to see Classes. We ask that no reactive dogs or bitches in season attend. Fully licensed bar open from midday.

SATURDAY 22nd JULY - MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT WITH NELSON'S

SHANTYMEN 7.30 p.m. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Admission £2.50 per person payable at the door. Fully licensed bar and Raffle (donations of prizes welcome.)

For further details of these and our future events visit our website at www.anmerclub.co.uk or Facebook page □

Dersingham Ladies Friendship Group – Who are we?

We are a group of ladies who meet for friendship and companionship on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Orchard Close Community Centre in Dersingham, PE31 6LU, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. (No meeting in August.)

We have a varied programme of speakers, quizzes, crafts, etc. We also arrange one midweek lunch and one Sunday lunch per month at various venues for those who wish to join in.

There is a small annual subscription, plus £2.00 per meeting, which includes refreshments. New members are welcome. Why not give us a try - nobody should be lonely or isolated.

Any enquiries to 01485 545880 or 01485 540941.□

Making Gardening Easier May Davey



Friday 17th March was our AGM at Dersingham Village Centre. Our committee was re-elected. Kate Hathaway has joined the Committee and we had volunteers to help us at meetings. Thank you! We have forty-five paid-up members and a healthy bank balance. There was also a talk by John Hayes from Gaywood about Community Gardens. Thank you to all our members and guests who braved such a rainy day.

An exciting all-day outing to The Old Vicarage, East Ruston, was enjoyed by thirty-six members and friends. There were thirty acres of gardens, all immaculate, and very varied. Lovely cakes and scones for tea and a well-stocked plant shop. The sun shone and there were no accidents. Delightful.

On 19th May, Geoff Hodge, who is well-known in the media, talked to us about Pests and Diseases at Dersingham Village Centre.

Our own Flower Show and cream tea takes place at Dersingham Village Centre on 16th June. Gloria Pantling will send a list of flower entries to those who couldn't make our May meeting. Phone her at 01553 671912.

We usually meet at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket.

Do come and join us! □



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- Identify risks to health and environment



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West Norfolk Befriending is a registered charity, and we offer our befriending services to our clients for free. We raise our own funds and rely on grants and donations to offer our service.

We are also happy to talk to people about volunteering. You can volunteer to do face-to-face, telephone befriending or both. No experience is necessary as full training is given. If you have good listening skills, are honest, reliable and patient and enjoy being around people then give us a call. A friendly chat can make the world of difference to a socially isolated older person.

For more information visit our website www.wnbefriending.org.uk, call the office on 01553 763500 or email info@befriending.org.uk



For the second year running the Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts are holding Art Exhibitions on June 9th - 11th and July 29th 2023 at Hunstanton Town Hall.

On offer are beautiful handmade crafts from patchwork covers and cushions to one off ceramics, which make ideal and unusual gifts at reasonable prices and there are twenty-five gifted and creativestall holders to choose from.

The Exhibitions build on last year's success and allow you to view these works of art in comfort and in a relaxed manner. As we will be providing seats, you can contemplate the splendours while sipping on a cup of tea or coffee.

If you want more details please contact Bob Davies at art@n-train.co.uk □



A Very Determined Fox

Christine Hannabuss

A very determined fox walked down the street in search of a meal. Not just any meal – something sweet. He knew exactly where he was heading - the sound of music, people. He continued his journey.

Freddie Fox turned the corner of the street and stopped dead in his tracks. The music was booming, the fairground was illuminated with decorative lights. He headed for his favourite stall but could not catch the stallholder's attention. 'I'll be back for the waffle, he thought.

In the distance a new ride, upwards and downwards, people queuing, shouting, and screaming, A young girl shouted out, 'My hat, can someone get my hat.' A sudden gust of wind had swept her floppy hat into the air, landing on the 'Hook a Duck,' sending several ducks into a watery spin.

The long blonde wig, attached to the floppy hat, begun soaring up into the air causing quite a spectacle. Then all was still, the wind released its vice-like grip on the hat, sending it sideways, to eventually land at Freddie's side.

He grabbed at the wide brim and using his teeth managed to fling the hat towards the young girl, who caught it with both hands. Without a moment to lose, she pulled the hat over her ears, the blonde hair masking her crimson face.

She thanked Freddie, then unexpectedly threw him a treat - a sugar-coated, cinnamon waffle. Freddie's absolute favourite. He carried his prize to the charity shop where, in a shady spot, out of sight, he munched his waffle, savouring every moment. □



Spring vaccinations now available – get yours today!

The spring vaccination campaign has started with care home residents and now those who are aged 75 and over and those who are at risk, can be vaccinated.

Those eligible for the spring COVID-19 vaccination programme are:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed

NHS COVID vaccines have saved countless lives, kept tens of thousands of people out of hospital, and helped us to live with the virus without fear or restrictions. The virus is still with us and making thousands of people ill every week and protection against COVID (either from catching the virus or from a previous vaccination) fades over time. So, this spring, **the NHS is offering a further vaccination to those at highest risk of severe illness from COVID.**

The last date people will be able to book a spring booster will be 29th June, with the last spring vaccinations on offer the following day, 30th June.

The NHS will write to people to remind those eligible that they can get the vaccine, but bookings can be made at any time. To book, use the **NHS App** or visit **nhs.uk/CovidVaccination**. If you are unable to book online, you can call 119 for free. □

Any ghost stories out there?

Author Dr Paul Lee published a book on the ghosts of West Norfolk in 2021 and is keen to learn of more spectral tales from the region for a planned second edition, to be released later this year.

He is interested in any stories, whether they be ancient or recent, and in private or public locations. Having received many new stories from

Norfolk folk, he is convinced that there are many more stories waiting to be unearthed! His email is paul.lee.1971@gmail.com □



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Race night for “Breast of Friends Fund” Rex Makemson

I was privileged to be asked to take the photos for a charity race night for the QE King's Lynn Breast of Friend Fund, held at the Dersingham Social Club on Saturday 22nd April 2023. The sum raised was (as confirmed by the charity) £5002.80.

Nathan at Crown Barbers, Dersingham used his expertise to shave the heads of three volunteers - Steven Ling, Brenton Carver and Gary English - who braved the shave to help raise money and awareness of the effects of breast cancer. □



Dersingham Rovers Under 10s Win the Cup

On Saturday 29th April the Under 10 Trophy Event finals took place at The FDC in Norwich for the Norfolk Combined Youth Football League.

Upp Cup Winners - Dersingham Rovers F.C.
Runners Up - Lowestoft Town F.C.



The boys were given a challenge this season by manager Gary English - to move to the Norwich league and compete against some of the top teams in Norfolk. And the result: winning the league at the cup final at the FDC on Saturday!

Coaches: Gary English, Stuart Able, Adam Seal, Steven Ling.

Squad: Barney Able, Herbie Brown, Bradley Carver, James Coates, Solomon Edwards, Luka English, Lenny Hipkin, Leon Hockton, Edgar Kalabin, Aaron Ling, Foster May, George Simpson □



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WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT (PG-13)

In London, an award-winning film-maker documents her best friend's journey into an assisted marriage in line with his family's Pakistani heritage. In the process, she challenges her own attitude towards relationships.



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The Planned Works on Dersingham Commons and Fen – Third Update

Alex Coombs, clerk to Dersingham United Charities

General Update

Following on from my previous articles I can confirm that the conservation work necessitated by our Countryside Stewardship Agreement continues well. We have now cleared the scrub from the Fen, which was the only outstanding work left from the 'Capital' section of the Agreement. The remainder of the CS Agreement focuses on the longer term maintenance projects, or 'Revenue' works. You will probably have noticed that we have largely succeeded in ridding the Common of rhododendron, which has opened it up nicely. This job will only be finished off by spot spraying the regrowth (this will probably span several summers) and then tackling the bushes that overhang the top ditch - in preparation to digging it out to encourage the water to drain away.

We have also halo-thinned around a few specified trees that needed freeing from surrounding, overbearing trees, giving them more room to grow. A few more are planned. The re-dug stream lines have made a difference with water now visibly running down the Common on to the Fen. There is a little more work to do here over the summer, and when we finally clear the top ditch, this should also make a substantial difference in feeding the Fen wetland. However, reducing the reed bed on the Fen continues to be problematic. We trialled a hand-held weed-wipe device this year which shows some signs of working and which we will continue with for now and monitor progress.



Woodland Plans

We are now about to embark on the largest, most influential, most expensive and most controversial work we will undertake - the thinning and clearing of some of the woodland on the Shut-up Common and the Fen. The CS Agreement is fifty-six pages long and, on page 25, it says "Implement silvicultural transformation as informed by the Woodland Management Plan." This single sentence basically means do the work described in the Forestry Commission's ten-year Plan, issued in 2019, which is another twenty-six pages long. It is accompanied by the appropriate ten-year felling licence.



The Plan is to improve the woods by encouraging a healthier, more diverse woodland environment, making it more resilient to climate change (we will not be attempting to return the Common to its previous heathland habitat, which would probably be impossible to achieve anyway.) The idea is to improve the bio-diversity via three specific forms: *Firstly* - diversity of species, which is perhaps the most obvious. This is to encourage different types of tree and other vegetation (and, conversely, to discourage dominant species), which should help a greater variety of insects, birds, bats and other creatures that live there.

Secondly - diversity of age range is perhaps the most difficult to achieve. A healthy wood relies on a succession of replacement plants and so requires young saplings, maturing old- and dead- wood each to be present in proportion.

Thirdly - diversity of density, which is perhaps the least obvious. Woods should naturally have densely packed areas, lightly planted areas and also open clearings to let in sunlight and provide 'edge habitats' which typically support more life than a dense woodland interior.

So, what do we have already? And how can we best achieve the Plan's aims?

If you think of the Shut-up Common as two halves - that to the north of the stream line (nearest the village) and that to the south of the stream line (bordering Sandringham's pine woods). The northern half is already a good example of what is required, with a decent mix of trees, young and old, and several open grassy areas. Consequently, we will only be 'tinkering' here by reducing the holly, and cyclically cutting the gorse at the top to keep it under control.

The southern half, however, requires a more deliberate remodelling of the woodland, so this is where we will concentrate our efforts. As you are no doubt aware, this is an area of, almost exclusively, densely packed, weak, immature silver birch (there are some young oaks, sweet chestnut and rowan, plus one crab apple and one bird cherry). In the circumstances, the Trustees have engaged a professional forester to thin out the birch in this section of the Common. This should encourage the remaining trees to thrive with less competition for space, light, water and nutrients so that they will grow individually stronger and healthier, making them more resistant to disease, insect and fungal damage whilst also diversifying the age structure of the woodland. If significant space is opened up, sunlight can reach the understory, which in turn stimulates the growth of grasses, flora and young trees, and we may be able to plant some different types of tree too, native species of course, to further help diversity.



On the Fen we will simply be 'feathering back' the trees from the edge of the open heathland to prevent any further woodland encroachment. The trees alongside the road will not be affected.

Our felling licence allows up to 30% of all the trees to be removed (plus some small areas of 'clear fell' along the stream lines.) However, we only plan to utilise it as described above – there is no forestry work planned for elsewhere, including the Open Common.

This work is planned for this winter and will take several weeks. As we are dealing with relatively small areas, the trees will be felled by hand, trimmed and the logs partly extracted using two horses. During this time you may find footpaths and access temporarily closed off, dogs will need to be kept on leads (and small children closely supervised) whilst felling and working horses are on site - please obey the signage. The logs will be stacked until they can be removed, mechanically, in the summer to minimize soil compaction. Unfortunately timber will not be available to the public as the value of this has already been accounted for in the forester's costings.

The Trustees would like to thank you for your co-operation and understanding during this work and would also like to thank our resident grazier for allowing Charlie and Sam to be stabled by the Common for an easy and safe commute to work!

If you have any queries let me know at: ducclerk@gmail.com. □

Fire Cadets Recruiting

On Saturday April 15th the Hunstanton fire cadets open their doors to the public for an insight in Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and to show exactly what it means to be in a fire cadet unit. There were great activities on offer where children and adults were able to get involved, from running out fire hoses to extinguish a simulated fire, to throwing a rescue line to retrieve a casualty. The fire cadets took centre stage three times with drills where they performed a rescue from height with ladders; they put out a mock fire and rescued a casualty using hoses and breathing apparatus; and then to top it off they carried out a fine display of a roof removal on a car. The fire cadets had planned the day to recruit new cadets into their unit. Everyone who attended said they had enjoyed themselves and were very impressed with just how much the fire cadets could do.



Currently the Hunstanton fire cadet unit is actively recruiting new fire cadets. With the summer coming up we've been told there will be plenty of new and exciting opportunities ahead.

If you have in your family or friends a member aged between thirteen and seventeen who would like to know more then use this QR code. Or visit Hunstanton Fire Station on a Tuesday 18:30 – 20:30 which is their weekly training session.□



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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

Lady Luck has been with us lately weatherwise on our walks, although we were treated briefly to heavy rain and a longer dose of horizontal hail on our Babingley River walk. Several new folk have been joining us but there is always room for more. Can't make Wednesday afternoons? Let us know when you could walk and if there is a consensus we will see what we can do.

Our next walks are:-

Wednesday May 24th, 2.00pm

The north coast this time. After climbing out of Brancaster on the Norfolk Coast Path we get great views of Titchwell before descending down to the coast and returning to Brancaster village. Start point Brancaster Church, TF 771 438. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday June 14th, 2.00pm

Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham will all be visited on this circuit of local footpaths. Starting from the bottom of Station Road, Dersingham by the old railway station buildings, TF 680 308. About 5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday June 28th, 2.00pm

A walk around the bog with Brian. It should be looking at its best, with a chance to see lizards, cows and deer. About 4 miles. Start at the village sign, TF 685 297. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday July 12th, 2.00 pm

A return to Hillington and Congham, passing through The Old Scotch Wood. About 4.5 miles. Start at the Hillington layby TF 712 253. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday July 26th, 2.00pm

A visit to the villages of Little and Great Massingham. Start point the car park on the Peddars Way behind the Dogotel kennels at Harpley Dams, TF 771254. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup

Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So, if you haven't walked with the group before, why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between 4 and 5 miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. There is no cost involved, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk, then please contact the leader. Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb**, Tel: 01485 542638. Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com. □

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We will be starting a programme of spiritual development, including different saints and ways into prayer, alternating between Hunstanton and Dersingham churches on the third Friday of each month at 3pm for approximately one and a half hours each. All are welcome to attend any or all of these. Suggestions for future programmes will be welcome. Please see the weekly bulletins or the parish website for details.

If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm. and there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meets at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE.

The Pope's prayer intention for **June** is **For the abolition of torture** - we pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families. The Pope's prayer intention for **July** is **For a Eucharistic life** - we pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

The setting up of an SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) Group in our parish is well under way and is named 'The Wash Conference'. If you would like to join or get more information, go to www.svp.org.uk. The dates of the meetings are published on the website and in the weekly church bulletins and anyone interested in contributing in any way is more than welcome to attend or speak to someone and pass on any concerns they may have.

Sr Danuta is guiding a regular parish study/discussion group at the Convent every Tuesday, 4.00-5.00pm, looking in more depth at the readings for the following Sundays. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along to any of the meetings and take part.

Please contact the Convent direct about daily Masses there on 01485 532837. For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters, including Coronavirus updates, see the **Links** page of our website.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11am at OLSE, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk

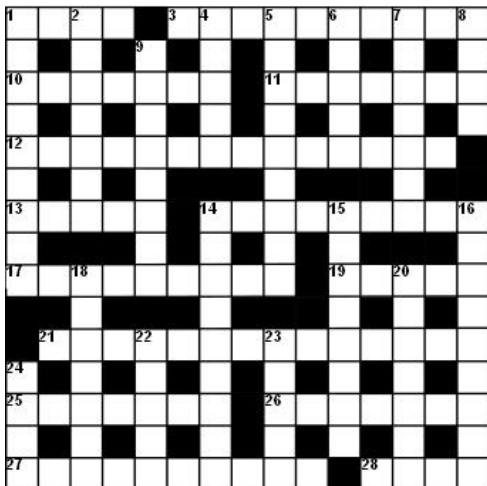
The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently, please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com

Across

- 1 A long way away from a farming life (4)
 3 Soldier can capture Mary and Val misbehaving (10)
 10 Will it help to find your way to a romp with Ada? (4,3)
 11 Late scoundrel leaves containers (7)
 12 Ban train mob and order dynamic duo (6,3,5)
 13 Leading light finds tempo before band commences (5)
 14 Comic follows group on party with impetus (9)
 17 Broad hat worn by accountant with written promises (9)
 19 Restore and redesigned by English architect (5)
 21 Rule had lanyard untangling a fine mess for partners (6,3,5)
 25 Princess sat outside Indian city temple of Mogul representation (7)
 26 Traveller on the way up for a musical repeat (7)
 27 Bewildered he said somehow he'd gained nearly a stone (10)
 28 Weapons found at first when training Royal military academics on Saturday (4)

Down

- 1 Gymnastic swimmer flips over flyer in charge (9)
 2 Plug for a point in a busy ring road (7)
 4 First Greek to lose a wager from complete set (5)
 5 Detectives under stress to find September mishaps (9)
 6 Frequency controller found in extra diode (5)
 7 Posting distress in dynasty (7)
 8 Feeling in south-west but nothing against south-east intuition (4)
 9 Peculiar path mice took to show sympathy (8)
 14 Misbehaving slow M.P. in lab discovers paint removers (9)
 15 Antiques road show entertains politicians in aggressive vessels (8)
 16 Just married and needs to look after wonderful and lovable wife in the first place (9)
 18 Rustic friendly but left out (7)
 20 Getting restless as river wound its way from Geordie area (7)
 22 Pundit confused when hospital left him needing rare repeat (5)
 23 Don't lose it and never undo it (5)
 24 Inside access reveals design (4)



Answers on page 69

Sudoku

	8			9			2	
6		3			8	5		
					7		1	
	6		9				8	
7				3				5
4	1				2			
				1			4	9
	2			7				6
		4			3			



Poetry and me Brian Anderson

Oh dear, that sounds a bit highbrow and pretentious! In fact I know almost nothing about the technicalities of poetry. I can't tell an ode from a sonnet and have no idea what iambic pentameter is (actually, I do now, as I looked it up.) To rephrase an old cliché about art, "I know nothing about poetry but I know what I like." So, what do I like? I'll give some examples, but limitations of space mean that I can't do whole poems unless they are very short. I am drawn to verse that is unsettling and disquieting, sometimes with a feeling of menace. An obvious example is a verse from Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*:

Like one who, on a lonely road,
Doth walk in fear and dread,
And, having once turned round, walks on,
And turns no more his head;
Because he knows a frightful fiend
Doth close behind him tread.

This is so effective that M R James, the writer of ghost stories, used it in one of his tales. And, while I'm on the subject, James did a very effective verse of his own very early in his career:

Then the horses stir and the sleepy cats purr
And something moves in the fern.
And did not see in the hollow oak tree
Two eyes begin to burn?

You heard a foot pass, it trailed over the grass,
You shivered it came so near.
And was it the head of a man long dead
That raised itself out of the mere?

But unsettling verse can be less obvious - take this nursery rhyme:

How many miles to Babylon?
Three score and ten
Can I get there by candlelight?
Yes, and back again.

What's that about? Still, it conjures up peculiar images of someone creeping about the desert aided only by the light of a candle.

Josephine Tey wrote an epigraph to her novel *The Singing Sands* which acts as a rather ambiguous clue to the book. I rather like the mysterious air of the poem:

The beasts that talk
The streams that stand
The stones that walk
The singing sand
That guard the way to Paradise.

Unsettling poetry may be about despair. Matthew Arnold's *Dover Beach* expresses this very well:

...for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,

Hath neither joy, nor love, nor light,
 Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
 And here we as on a darkling plain
 Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight
 Where ignorant armies clash by night.

I came across this after canvassing in a General Election campaign and coming across our opponents doing the same street. An amiable chat revealed that some electors had promised support to both of us...we were the ignorant armies clashing by night!

Equally despairing but with a different mood is Robert Browning's *A Toccata of Galuppi's*:

...As for Venice and its people,
 merely born to
 bloom and drop,
 Here on earth they bore their
 fruitage,
 mirth and folly were the crop:
 What of soul was left, I wonder, when the kissing
 had to stop?



Enough of this! I also like poems expressing a sort of nostalgia. Many are a bit too familiar, sentimental, syrupy or bucolic. But I like *Adelstrop* by Edward Thomas:

Yes, I remember Adelstrop -
 The name, because one afternoon
 Of heat the express-train drew up there
 Unwontedly. It was late June.
 The steam hissed. Someone cleared their throat.
 No-one left and no-one came...
 ...And for that minute a blackbird sang
 Close by, and round him, mistier.
 Farther and farther, all the birds
 Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.



We went to Adelstrop some years ago – the station has gone but the station name has been preserved in the village.

Finally, a bit humour, taken from TS Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. I've chosen *Macavity: The Mystery Cat*. Macavity is clearly modelled on Sherlock Holmes' nemesis Professor Moriarty.

...Macavity's a ginger cat, he's very tall and thin;
 You'd know him if you saw him, for his eyes
 are sunken in...
 ...He sways his head from side to side with movements like a snake;
 And when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide awake.
 Macavity, Macavity, there's no-one like Macavity
 For he's fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.
 You may meet him in a by-street. you may see in the square -
 But when a crime's discovered, then Macavity's *not there!*





The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle

I actually had a face to face with a doctor last week! He was lovely. He asked me questions, listened to me, smiled, made eye contact and also asked me what I did. He searched for the right words so as not to offend about my age, and I replied, 'Oh you charmer' which made him laugh. In the end we were both laughing very loudly and I did wonder if it could be heard in the waiting room, but do you know, I almost

skipped out of the surgery because someone had been acting like a nice human being, and I felt totally uplifted. I realised that is what has been missing for such a long time. In shops, for instance, cashiers barely glance at you, seldom responding to a smile, a comment or even something funny. On the whole people are disinterested, wrapped up in their own misery and have no charm, courtesy or real commitment to their jobs. I'm quite a happy person, kept very busy with my self-indulgent creative projects, but I wonder how people cope who are very lonely, and possibly ill, who just want to hear a kind word, receive a nice smile and maybe have a little chat. That interaction with the lovely doctor made me realise what is wrong these days – lack of communication and friendliness.

You might not believe it, but someone who works in a surgery (no, not this area) told me that the receptionists had been told not to react with the public and to ignore them. Well, they certainly seem to do so and what a shameful instruction, don't you think?

Mary Quant has died. Oh my word, her evocative name brings back the sixties and seventies with all the colour and glamour after the austere war years and the dull fifties – vibrant colours and patterns, mini skirts, feather boas... I remember going into her London shop and finding it all so exciting. Carnaby Street, that used to be a rat-infested street where cheap Italian cafés abounded, with huge silverfish running up the walls. I worked in the West End then, and seeing all the colour and wonderfulness happening right in front of my eyes was so exciting. And now, what has happened? All the glamour and fun has gone out of fashion and everyone seems to be encased in dull, baggy attire. I don't like the current trend at all. Mary Quant began a fabulous trend for those flower power days and we are back to dull and uninspiring – as well as unsmiling.

My book is finally out, but alas is not on the shelves because it seems publishing has gone along the 'print to order' line. So, if you might be interested in obtaining a copy of *The Prowl of Unrest* by Valerie Anckorn, you can get one from Amazon – I have some copies too if you want to pop round – I've set the story in King's Lynn in the sixteen hundreds when Matthew Hopkins, the witch finder general, actually lived there for two years where he was paid a lot of money for finding witches. He used nefarious means, of course, so a lot of innocent women were hanged in Tuesday Market Place. In my fictional tale, the witch finder's beady eye fell upon the heroine, who escaped his clutches by leaping aboard a ship sailing on the midnight tide, and had many an adventure. Love, danger, adventure and a bit of witchcraft. I loved writing it! In the end I illustrated the cover too. I didn't like what the publishers offered me, so did what I could.

Oh, the book and I are going to be featured in the July edition of *Take a Break's FATE AND FORTUNE* magazine. Fame, if not fortune, at last!

I'm making a chicken. I've always wanted to have a go at making an armature – I think that is the right word – it's a structure for sculpting something and you make it with chicken wire. I thought it would be easy, but I've never disliked doing something so much! The chicken wire scratches and gouges as you try and shape it and I got thoroughly bad tempered. Then you stuff the shape with newspaper to bulk it out, and then the fun

begins as you push a mixture of paper and glue over the form. I did that part yesterday, on the top half of the chicken, and I did enjoy that. However, it's a stupid looking chicken and I just couldn't get the beak right. It looks more like a nose – the kind that was called a conk in the old days. (Just imagine if you called somebody's nose that these days. You would be hung, drawn and quartered.)

That reminds me of a cat we had many years ago. He had a big nose and we called him Conk. We weaved a story about him where he played the drums in the Salvation Army band, (all our animals had imaginary occupations and characters) and one day a local asked me if we had named him thus after 'Conk' Dodman, who had been the Salvation Army's drummer. I just couldn't believe the coincidence. And, as our story about Conk's imaginary life grew, we had him dressed in a pinstripe suit with big shoulder pads, a kipper tie (naturally) black and white two-toned brogues, and a white trilby with a blank hat band around it.

One evening in the local pub we were with friends, telling Conk's story and describing his clothing and then a young man entered wearing exactly Conk's outfit down to the final T. We just couldn't believe it – in a sleepy Norfolk village, NOBODY wore clothes like this! Another wonderful coincidence that made the evening.

I don't know if I have been getting subtle messages from the divine, but recently I awoke with the song *Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think* running through my brain and which ran in my head all day and continues to do so every morning. Then, this morning, another one - *Return to sender (address unknown)*. Well, I intend to continue enjoying myself, but shall wear an identity tag, just in case – I just hope it's a coincidence.

Until next month then, Mrs. D.□

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 69

STORM	BEESTON	BELTON	HAIL
CALIFORNIA	YARD	TYPHOON	THETFORD
HURRICANE	NEWPORT	ACRE	ACLE
NORWICH	STAPLE	BRADFIELD	TORNADO



Commemorative coins and a special book to mark the Coronation

A commemorative coin is to be offered to all nursery and primary school aged children in west Norfolk to mark the Coronation. In addition, the borough council is seeking designs from local children to place in a hand-bound book to give to their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla after the Coronation. The coin, bearing the Coronation emblem on one side and the borough crest on

the other, has been specially commissioned by the borough council to mark this significant occasion. It will be distributed to local primary and nursery schools soon after the forthcoming election.

Coronation coins will be available to purchase at the free borough-council-organised Coronation events in King's Staithe Square, King's Lynn, and The Green in Hunstanton. Coins will also be available to buy from King's Lynn Tourist Information Centre based in Stories of Lynn. In addition, students of west Norfolk are being invited to design a page, featuring a Coronation message, drawing, or poem that will feature in a special book celebrating the Coronation. The individual pages will be handbound together into this book which will be presented to the royal couple later this year. It will be a very personal and original tribute to their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla after the Coronation. Once the book has been presented to the newly coronated King and Queen, a digital version of the book will be published on the borough council website for all to see.

The Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Cllr Lesley Bambridge, said, "Our residents have a special association with the royal family thanks to Sandringham House and the regular visits from the King. I'm pleased that local nursery and primary school aged children will have a lasting memento of this historic occasion and that students will be able to share their messages of congratulations with their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. This handbound book of individual sheets, each containing a personal message, will be a unique and lasting keepsake for our royal couple, which I am sure they will treasure." □

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Lecturer: Lucia Gahlin



Monday 10th July 2023

The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial and its treasures from far countries

Lecturer: Mark Cottle



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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Afar. 3 Cavalryman. 10 Road map.
11 Caddies. 12 Batman and Robin. 13 Torch.
14 Bandwagon. 17 Capacious. 19 Renew.
21 Laurel and Hardy. 25 Diagram. 26 Reprise.
27 Astonished. 28 Arms.

Down

1 Acrobatic. 2 Adaptor. 4 Alpha. 5 Accidents.
6 Radio. 7 Mailing. 8 Nose. 9 Empathic.
14 Blowlamps. 15 Warships. 16 Newlyweds.
18 Peasant. 20 Nervier. 22 Rerun. 23 Nerve.
24 Idea.

Word Wall Answers

Barn:acle,staple,yard,storm

Places in Norfolk: Newport, California, Belton,
Bradfield

Bad weather: Tornado, Typhoon, Hail,
Hurricane

Castles in England: Norwich, Beeston, Acre, Thetford

Sudoku Answers

1	8	7	5	9	6	3	2	4
6	4	3	2	1	8	5	7	9
2	5	9	3	4	7	6	1	8
3	6	2	9	5	4	7	8	1
7	9	8	6	3	1	2	4	5
4	1	5	7	8	2	9	6	3
8	3	6	1	2	5	4	9	7
5	2	1	4	7	9	8	3	6
9	7	4	8	6	3	1	5	2

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No. 143 (Aug/Sept 23)	Monday 3rd July 2023	Monday 24th July 2023
No. 144 (Oct/Nov 23)	Monday 4th Sept 2023	Monday 25th Sept 2023
No. 145 (Dec 23/ Jan 24)	Monday 6th Nov 2023	Monday 27th Nov 2023
No. 146 (Feb/Mar 24)	Monday 8th Jan 2024	Monday 29th Jan 2024
No. 147 (April/ May 24)	Monday 4th March 2024	Monday 25th March 2024

Advertising rates and sizes – VAT included

Eighth page	6.4cm wide x 4.7cm high	£25.00
Quarter page (Landscape)	12.8cm wide x 4.7cm high	£38.00
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Half page	9.5cm wide x 12.8cm high	£75.00
Full page	12.8cm wide x 19.2cm high	£140.00

Village Voice is published every two months. Discounts are available for block bookings: if you book in advance for all six issues in the year, you get one free entry. There is a 10% discount for a block of four or five bookings in the year.

Obtain booking form and full technical details for advertisements by emailing villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or from the Parish Council office (address below). An invoice will be sent on receipt of the booking form.

Articles

Please send as Word documents. Any photographs need to be attached as separate files, not in the body of an article or email, and they need to be high resolution (large) images so that they reproduce well. Please send articles and photographs to villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Distribution

Village Voice goes to all 2,500+ residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham, with another 600 available to subscribers, shop counters, the Village Centre and other public places. Please support our advertisers and also let them know you heard about them in Village Voice!!

The editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Published material also appears on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made by contributors .□

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A close-up, profile view of an elderly man with white, curly hair, smiling gently. He is looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

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